



# Considering Your Career Options: What Can You Do Today?

Reflection Guide

August 20, 2015

## Personal Reflection

What types of news articles draw you in the most?

What kinds of books, blogs, or social media posts are most compelling to you?

What are you really good at?

What skills do you hope to gain in the next few years?

## Peer Input

Who are some peers (colleagues, friends, family members) that know you best?

Visit: <http://www.vistacampus.gov/resources/career-planning>  
to watch a recording of this webinar!



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## Career Research & Networking

What type of career fields or organizations do you want to learn more about?

Is there anyone in your network you'd like to connect with for an informational interview?

## Next Steps

What are some immediate action steps you can take after this session?

What are some resources you want to check out after this session?

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## Activities & Resources

### Personal Reflection

1. Do some self-assessment.
  - What are your interests and passions?
  - What are your skills and talents?
2. Visualize your dream career.
  - How would you spend your day?
  - What kind of responsibilities would you have?

### Peer Input

1. Ask peers (colleagues, friends, family) to reflect on your skills and career options you might want to explore.
2. Ask peers to give feedback on your resume or [LinkedIn profile](#).

### Career Research

1. Try the Career Tracker Exercise to identify key themes in job postings that interest you (found on page of 45 [Idealist Guide for Nonprofit Careers](#)).
  - Explore job search sites:
    - [VISTA Job Board](#)
    - Nonprofit Careers: [www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)
    - For-Profit Careers: [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com), [www.simplyhired.com](http://www.simplyhired.com), [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)
    - Government Careers: [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)
  - Explore [Employers of National Service](#)
2. Use the Four Lenses Framework to assess what are top priorities for you in a career (found on page 49 of [Idealist Guide for Nonprofit Careers](#)).

### Networking

1. Set up Informational Interviews to learn more from professionals in the field.
  - Check out page 68 of the [Idealist Guide for Nonprofit Careers](#) for a list of great questions to ask
2. Connect with others in a potential career field through strategic involvement such as volunteer service, Board service, professional associations or networking groups.
  - Find a local chapter of [AmeriCorps Alums](#).
  - Find a local volunteer center through the [Hands On Network](#).

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